



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

May 2, 2008

News from the Chief

For four days this week, a three-member assessment team from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) inspected all aspects of the department's policy, procedures, and operations to determine whether we should retain our accredited status that was first bestowed 14-years ago. I am very pleased to report that the tremendous work of officers and professional support staff throughout the department was both noticed and highly appreciated by the assessment team. Team leader William Howe from the St. Louis County Police Department told me Thursday morning that our on-site assessment was "excellent," that we "compare with the best I have seen," and that "you do some phenomenal things here." Director Howe said that we were in 100% compliance with all 276 applicable/mandatory CALEA standards and observed, "That is rare. Very few agencies accomplish that."

I am very grateful to the many of you who interviewed with, and provided tours to, the CALEA assessors. I particularly thank our Accreditation Manager, Sergeant Charles Vance, and the staff in the Strategic Development Division who worked so hard to make the on-site visit a success: Lieutenant Jim Stephens, Sergeant Jason Sharpe; and Sergeant Chuck Rutzky.

CALEA commissioners will consider the assessment team's report during July and make the final decision on our reaccreditation bid.

I have asked the Strategic Development Division to begin the process of creating a civilian volunteer program for the police department. I envision properly screened volunteers assisting with certain data entry responsibilities, answering the telephone, and other general administrative duties. Several police departments in the United States, including the Phoenix Police Department, have volunteer programs. In Phoenix, a volunteer works a minimum of 16 hours per month, must attend annual training, and must pass a background check, polygraph exam, and drug test. As our program is finalized, a sworn member of the department will be selected to oversee it. Some have asked whether the volunteer program would be used to assume responsibilities currently being performed by our professional support staff. I assure you that will not be the case. Volunteers will be used to assist employees.

Thank you all very much for your dedication and hard work!

Happenings

The man believed to be the “Wooded Rapist,” who has eluded capture for 14 years and is suspected in at least 13 rape cases in Davidson, Williamson and Wilson counties, is now in police custody.

Robert Jason Burdick, 38, of 314 Ash Grove Court in South Nashville, was arrested Thursday while traveling eastbound on I-24 in Rutherford County. Rutherford County’s Interstate Interdiction Unit made the stop at the request of Metro & Brentwood detectives who received word shortly after 9 a.m. from the TBI Crime Laboratory that Burdick’s DNA matched biological samples recovered from many of the crime scenes. Burdick was turned over to investigators from Metro, Brentwood, Wilson County, and the TBI.

The “Wooded Rapist” has victimized a number of women between at least 1994 and February of this year. He most often would break into victims’ homes in the darkness.

The major break that led to the identification of Burdick as a suspect in the rape cases came during a traffic stop by Brentwood Police Officer Elliott Hamm on Meadowlake Road at 1:30 a.m. Monday. An alert citizen in the Meadowlake subdivision called 911 after seeing a suspicious person, dressed in black, wearing a mask, and carrying a flashlight. Officer Hamm stopped Burdick’s Jeep as it was leaving the area. Burdick claimed that he had been attending a party in the area and had to park on the street. Burdick refused Officer Hamm’s request to search the Jeep. Officer Hamm meticulously recorded Burdick’s information, allowed him to proceed, and then forwarded Burdick’s details to the Brentwood Police Department’s Criminal Investigations Division. That stop prompted around-the-clock surveillance of Burdick by Metro and Brentwood detectives, who have been working very closely together on the Wooded Rapist cases since 1999.

Robert Jason Burdick is a principal in WB Technologies, a company located at 2201 Murfreesboro Pike that specializes in burglar alarm technology.

District Attorneys General Torry Johnson in Nashville, Kim Helper in Williamson County, and Tommy Thompson in Wilson County, are in discussions regarding additional charges and the prosecution of Burdick.

More than 80 citizens and police officers honored during annual awards ceremony

Chief Serpas and Mayor Dean handed out plaques, certificates and uniform ribbons April 24th to award winners who were recognized for heroism, bravery, and outstanding acts performed during 2007.

Here are just three examples of their tremendous efforts:

Jerry McEwen – Citizen Commendation Award

When Jerry McEwen saw a woman engaged in a fight with a man over her purse in a Kroger parking lot last December, he didn't think twice about rushing to the victim's aid. Mr. McEwen had no idea that the man he was about to confront was a violent ex-convict who had been paroled just months earlier. Seeing that his escape was in jeopardy, the robber pulled a long knife and callously stabbed Mr. McEwen in the chest. The wound was fatal.

The police department salutes Jerry McEwen for his bravery and giving his life to assist a fellow Nashvillian who was under attack.



Jerry McEwen's sister, Dianne, presents his award to their mother.

Kemaya Nicole Williams – Citizen Commendation Award

Seven-year-old Kemaya Williams' calm, immediate action is responsible for her mother being alive today.

A visit by the mother's former boyfriend turned to horror when he pulled a gun and shot Kemaya's mom in the head, not once, but twice. Kemaya quickly found her mother's cell phone and dialed 911 as the gunman fled.

Once officers arrived, Kemaya provided exact detail as to what had occurred inside the home. Thanks to this brave little girl, her mother survived life-threatening injuries, and the man responsible for inflicting them now stands convicted of attempted first-degree murder.



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Ronal Serpas, Kamaya Williams,
and Mayor Karl Dean**

**Officers Bruce Guldeman, Shane Fairbanks, Marty Reed, Derek Keeler, and James King
Department Commendation – Exemplary Service Award
Officer Jason Wong – Department Commendation**

These members of the East Precinct's Flex Team are responsible for a 500-pound marijuana seizure that was precipitated by the running of a stop sign.

The motorist, who was pulled over by Officers Reed and Wong, had information about neighborhood drug activity. The Flex Team was given clearance to follow up on the investigation and, within days, their efforts resulted in the seizure of 500 pounds of marijuana from a Nashville apartment complex.

These officers made this case without any formal training on major drug investigations. It is a classic case of looking well beyond a traffic stop.



Pictured (l-r) are Officer Bruce Guldeman, Chief Ronal Serpas, Officers Marty Reed, Shane Fairbanks, and Derek Keeler, Mayor Karl Dean, Officers James King and Jason Wong.

***Photographs are being sent to award winners. They are also available for purchase online at:
<https://photoservices.lifepics.com/net/pro/EventInfo.aspx?id=C6BEDAAA875E19EBCD5C5BEEC91251C34ECAC71BF85A4C6540AB056B37333DA8> When the page opens click on View Event. Click on the images you would like to order, then click on order prints, and it will ask for sizes and quantities.**

Chief Ronal Serpas Inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha

Chief Ronal Serpas was honorarily inducted into Tennessee State University's Chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. Chief Serpas is only the fourth individual to receive this distinction. Chief Serpas, who holds a doctorate in the field of Urban Studies with an emphasis in Urban Crime from Louisiana State University at New Orleans, was recognized for his leadership of the Metropolitan Police Department since 2004.

Overall major crime in the city has fallen each year of Chief Serpas' tenure. The purpose of Pi Alpha Alpha is to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in public affairs and administration, and to foster integrity, professionalism and effective performance in the conduct of government and related public service activities.



Pictured at Friday's Awards Ceremony (l-r) are Dr. Melvin Johnson, Tennessee State University President, Dr. & Chief Ronal Serpas, Dean & former Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell from Tennessee State University's College of Public Service & Urban Affairs, and Dr. Rodney Stanley, Tennessee State University's Faculty Advisor for Pi Alpha Alpha.

Recruitment Open House

Lt. Michele Donegan

What an honor it was March 22nd to welcome over 200 individuals who attended the Recruitment Open House. One hundred eighty-four of those individuals signed up as having true interest in a law enforcement career with the MNPD and 69 completed a trial run of the physical ability course. The October 2007 open house had approximately the same attendance with 32% of attendees actually going forward and taking the civil service test.

The night would not have been such a success without the support of Chief Serpas, the Executive staff, Background & Recruitment staff, Training Academy staff, and the many officers who showcased their various units.

A very special thanks goes out to everyone who played a role in the evening!

Chief Serpas Executive Staff Training Academy DUI Aggressive Driving Unit East Flex Metro Government HR Metro Police HR Drill and Ceremony Team Hazardous Devices Crime Scene Unit El Protector Crime Stoppers Park Police Mounted Patrol Central Bikes Central Motors Public Affairs Office	Aviation SWAT Special Operations K-9 Police Explorers Stimulimedia Davidson County Sheriff Department OEM Blinker Light Pre-Academy POT's and Precinct Commanders, Captains, Lieutenants, Sergeants and Officers who attended on their own time to show their support!
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Several components of the MNPD were on display during the Recruitment Open House



Sgt. Marjorie Haworth talks to potential recruits during the open house



Session 57 participates in team building exercises at YMCA Camp Widjiwagan.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Three teenagers, two 17-year-olds and an 18-year-old, attempted to rob a 69-year-old woman outside a Donelson Pike hotel. They pushed her 72-year-old husband to the ground. He sustained a serious knee injury. Their efforts to steal the woman's purse were unsuccessful and they fled on foot. Witnesses followed the suspects and reported their location to dispatch. Officer LaTonya Thames quickly responded and all three suspects were taken into custody. Each is charged with attempted robbery and assault.

South

Officer Brent Bauer stopped a 2003 Monte Carlo at Brewer Drive and Tusculum Road for an equipment violation. He detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search of the car were 590 grams of marijuana located in a speaker box in the trunk. The driver and her passenger are both charged with felony marijuana possession in a drug-free school zone.

An accused cocaine dealer now sits in the Metro Jail thanks to a meticulous six-week investigation by the South Precinct's Crime Suppression Unit.

During early March, detectives learned that Otis Vernell Maclin, Jr., 19, was likely selling crack cocaine in the South Nashville area and was looking for someone who could sell him a fully automatic machine gun. Officers subsequently arranged for several cocaine buys from Maclin, all within 1,000 feet of Cole Elementary School, and discussed weapons transactions.

A final deal was arranged for where Maclin would receive a fully automatic machine gun (provided by the ATF) in exchange for crack cocaine. Maclin delivered the cocaine to the undercover detective, took possession of the machine gun, and was immediately arrested. Maclin had given the officer 6.5 grams of crack. An additional four grams were found in his vehicle.

A search of Maclin's 1253 2nd Avenue South home late Monday pursuant to a search warrant resulted in the seizure of two pistols, a sawed-off shotgun, and items used in the manufacture of crack cocaine. The residence is directly across the street from a day care center.

Maclin is charged with a number of offenses, including unlawful possession of a machine gun, unlawful possession of a sawed-off shotgun, manufacturing and delivering crack cocaine, selling crack cocaine, possessing crack for resale, and driving on a suspended license. He is being held in lieu of \$362,000 bond.

East

Officer Rich Lowry was attempting to pull a car over for a window tint violation in the James Cayce public housing development when the driver and two passengers threw several items out of the moving vehicle. Over 31 grams of marijuana and approximately .3 grams of cocaine were retrieved from the street. A small amount of marijuana was also located inside the car. The driver and back seat passenger were charged with felony drug possession in a drug-free school zone. The front seat passenger was charged with tampering with evidence.

Officer Misty Hobbs approached two juveniles standing at the corner of Lenore and South 7th streets for loitering during school hours. They ran into a nearby home. Officers Hobbs and Elizabeth Mills received permission to enter the residence where they located the juveniles. Seized in a subsequent consent search were 24 Ecstasy pills, drug paraphernalia, and a .25 caliber pistol.

North

Officers Greg Jones and Michael Pyle responded to a robbery alarm at Advance America at 125 North Gallatin Pike at 8:30 a.m. A man, armed with a handgun, robbed the business owner of cash, jewelry, and credit cards before he fled on foot. Officers quickly established a perimeter and located the suspect hiding in the bed of a pickup truck. He was charged with aggravated robbery.

A concerned citizen called to report shots fired at a residence on Rio Vista Drive. Officers arrived and performed a Knock and Talk. When the door opened, a man was seen in plain view with a large bag of marijuana on his lap. Seized in a subsequent search were a revolver, drug paraphernalia, 1.5 pounds of marijuana, and \$1,192 cash.

West

Painstaking detective work led to the arrest of Joshua Eugene Braden, 18, who is charged with criminal homicide for the March 18th fatal shooting of 17-year-old Clint Corley near McKissack Park on 28th Avenue North.

On the day of the murder detectives believe Corley and Michael Willis, 17, of Delta Avenue, were leaving the park after playing basketball when Braden fired shots at both of them even though Willis was the intended target. Willis, who had argued with a friend of Braden's earlier in the day, was shot in the leg. Corley was shot in the back. Both were transported to Vanderbilt University Medical Center where Corley died and Willis was treated and released.

West Flex and Directed Patrol officers working on a crime reduction initiative broke up a counterfeiting ring early Thursday morning following a simple traffic stop.

The driver of a rental car was stopped for not using his turn signal at the intersection of Sawyer Brown Road and Highway 70 at 1:30 a.m. Officers detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search of the car were a counterfeit \$100 dollar bill, two photo copiers, materials used to bleach lower denomination bills in order to turn them into larger denominations, and two grams of marijuana.

Clarence Woods, 22, Chiari Hardy, 25, and Brandon Perry, 25, are charged with criminal simulation. All three are from Memphis.

Central

Two men with a history of burglary and theft convictions are back behind bars thanks to the teamwork of a vigilant West Nashville resident and an off-duty detective sergeant.

A man subsequently identified as Joseph Shane Whittaker was seen walking through yards on Newberry Street, Bresslyn Drive, and Georgetown Road. One resident watched as Whitaker went into the crawlspace of a Georgetown Road home and emerged with two

chainsaws, which he placed into the back of a pickup truck that was cruising slowly through the area.

Off-duty Detective Sergeant Randy Brock lives nearby and got a call from a neighbor about the suspicious activity. Brock went outside, saw the truck driving by, got into his police car and made a traffic stop. The Georgetown Road resident came to the scene and confirmed that the chainsaws had indeed been stolen from his crawlspace.

Whittaker, 40, of Lennox Avenue, who has been convicted of burglary twice, felony theft six times, aggravated assault, and escape over the past 14 years, is once again charged with aggravated burglary.

The driver of the pickup truck, Charles Shane Johnson, 34, of Stratford Avenue, has been convicted of aggravated burglary five times over the past 13 years. He was charged with felony theft, possession of burglary tools, possession of a prohibited weapon (a knife with an eight-inch blade), and driving on a suspended license.

Officer John Wright arrested a man wanted on two outstanding warrants for sex offender violations. He is a registered sex offender in Nashville and failed to report for his annual registration. The man was arrested after selling scrap metal to PSC Metals.

Professional Support Employee of the Month for January

Police Identification Specialist Laurie Flemming

Professional Support Employee of the Month for February

Sex Crimes Administrative Assistant Alice Murphy

Professional Support Employee of the Month for March

North Precinct Investigations Executive Assistant Kay Holder

Congratulations:

Frederick Nelson, Session 57 Officer Trainee, and his wife, Tosha, are the proud parents of Cassidy Nelson born April 21.

Jason Baber, Session 57 Officer Trainee, and his wife are the proud parents of Olivia Clare born April 21.

Officer Ryan Perkins, West CSU, and his wife, Tandy, are the proud parents of Ryan Perkins, Jr., born April 23.



Condolences:

George Albert Martin, father of Barbara Bond, Youth Services, passed away April 20.

Faye Taylor, mother of retired/deceased Officer Michael Taylor, sister-in-law to retired Officer William Taylor, aunt of Lt. Patrick Taylor, Homicide Unit, Detective Mary Goins, Youth Services, Jim Taylor, Property Guard, Elaine Word, Criminal Clerks Office, and great aunt of Officer Kevin Taylor, North Precinct, passed away recently.

Sandra Dixon Hayes, midnight supervisor at the Vehicle Impound Section and 35-year employee of the MNPd, passed away April 27.

Claude Weaver, father of Officer Jeff Weaver, S.I.D., passed away.

FYI:

Cumberland River Pedestrian Bridge Grand Opening

Saturday, May 3, 2008

10 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Please join Mayor Karl Dean, Metro Parks and the Greenways Commission to celebrate this incredible link in Metro's parks and greenways system.

Walk, ride your bikes or skate across the bridge!

Park and meet at Wave Country, 2320 Two Rivers Parkway

Ribbon cutting will take place at the Briley Parkway bridge portal before crossing

GIVE BLOOD

Metro Police Training Academy

May 30, 2008

8:30 am-2:30 pm

To schedule an appt go to:

www.givelife.org and enter

Sponsor code Metro19

Click on attachment for more info

**For questions call Sgt. Kris Delap at 862-
7617**



To be eligible to donate you must be healthy, at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have given whole blood in the past 56 days or a double red cell in the last 112 days. There is no upper age limit. You may not give blood if you have received Red Cross notification asking you not to donate. Please bring ID or your donor card.



American
Red Cross

Please bring your gently worn shoes for the Soles4Souls program during the May 30 Blood Drive!

Soles4Souls Inc.

Kirk Kellerhals

In the last two months, the Metro Nashville Police Department has collected over 2,400 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls to distribute to the hurting worldwide! In addition to that, the Police Department's liaison, Sergeant Kris DeLap, connected with the Davidson County Sheriff's Department and also got them on board. The show of support from the Nashville Law Enforcement community has been huge and their contribution to our mission of "Changing the World One Pair at a Time" will forever be appreciated!